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Bureau of Plant Industry  
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Prefatory Note Regarding a New Feature of the  
Plant Introduction Work of the Bureau.

It has been apparent for some time that there was need of some method of calling the attention of the various experimenters of the Bureau to the foreign seeds and plants which are left over from the regular distribution of the imported material that is sent out according to the applications on file and the recommendations of the various experts of the Bureau.

We have thought to meet this need by the issuing of what we propose to call our Spring List of Seeds and our Fall List of Seeds.

This List is the first attempt and it has met with so many difficulties in the process of its preparation, primarily a late start, that it will reach those we hope to interest too late in many cases to be of value.

Further, it should be explained that, being the first list, it has in it many things which are old and perhaps of little value. The age of the seed is, however, given in each case and it is thought that this will give an indication of its probable vitality.

Notwithstanding its grave faults, we have thought it worth while to send it around in the hope that it would at least bring forth some criticism that might aid us in the

preparation of a much more readable and useable Fall List.

This is not to be in any way confused with the bi-weekly bulletins of New Importations, which latter are designed to attract the attention of Experimenters as soon as possible after the seeds or plants have come in and even before they are in shape for distribution. It will supplement them by bringing up again those things which we have been able to propagate successfully and those things which did not attract attention when they first arrived.

We trust that this will be as welcome to the experimenters as the bi-weekly bulletin seems to have been.

Very truly yours,

Agricultural Explorer in Charge.

Note.

In order to bring to the attention of the Bureau Experimenters the fact that there are a number of foreign seeds on hand in the storehouse of the office which may be of interest to them, we have prepared a Spring List of Seeds Available for Experimenters. It was not practicable to make many copies of this, but anyone applying for the list will be given an opportunity to look it over.

Attached is a statement regarding the aims of this Spring List.

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no. 2.

Notes from the Office of Seed and Plant Introduction.

Sept. 20 to Oct. 1, 1908.  
20

## New Plant Immigrants.

AFRICA, Lourenco Marquez. 21 packages of seeds from Mr. Barrett as follows:

Nos. 1, 2, 3. Kafir corn. Varieties cultivated by the Kafirs.

No. 4. Veronia (?) sp. Rambling ornamental shrub. Flowers fragrant, numerous, of unstable colors (white to bluish or rose).

Nos. 5, 6. Canavalia (?) spp. A wild vine in the bush and along river banks.

Nos. 7, 8. Vigna spp. "Kafir beans".

No. 9. Eleusine coracana. A common crop in the lower Zambezi Valley Prefers heavy alluvium.

Nos. 10, 14, 15, 18. "Legumes"

Nos. 11, 13. Indigofera spp. Woody herbs of the veld.

No. 12. Crotalaria (?) wild, woody herb of open veld.

No. 16. Gossypium. A dwarf wild cotton of the open veld. Prolific.

No. 17. Spathodea (?) sp. A close branched evergreen tree, suitable for a wind belt.

No. 19. Telfairea pedata. A gigantic cucumber, apparently wild. Oil of good quality; kernels said to contain 60 per cent. Planted as a new oil crop.

No. 20. Calpurnia (?) sp. A gray-leaved shrub or small tree growing in sand in coast region. Suitable for wind hedge in Florida.

No. 21. Mucuna (?) sp. Seeds from bank of Chindi River

AFRICA, Pretoria. Vitis vinifera. Presented by Mr. R. A. Davis, Government Horticulturist, Aug. 29. Mr. Davis says this is a really good table fruit, possessed of hardy qualities and largely resistant to

cidium. The Transvaal Agricultural Journal says it is a good fruit, but in many cases does not bear well.

CANARY ISLANDS, Teneriffe. *Solanum muricatum*. Presented by Mr. Solomon Berliner, Sept. 21. "Cuttings of a fruit known here as 'Pera Melon' or Melon Pear. This fruit grows on bushes about 2 or 3 feet high and when ripe is yellow and the shape of a melon. In taste it is a blend between a cantaloupe and a pear."

CEYLON, Colombo. *Musa* spp. Species of Ceylon banana, procured by Dr. C. Drieberg, Sept. 18.

CHINA, Mokanshan. *Rubus* spp. Presented by Rev. J. M. W. Farnham, Shanghai, China. Received September 5. No. 23532. "These grow on the stem like the blackberry and have no core like the raspberry. They are red and pleasantly acid and might be useful in proper location or may be useful in hybridizing". No. 23534. "I found these growing wild here on the mountain 2000 feet above the sea. It resembles the raspberry in that the lobes of the berry are arranged around a core or center, but the vine is more like the blackberry tho the leaves are very light on the under side, almost white. The lobes are slightly acid and red".

CHINA, Nodoa, Island of Hainan. *Ficus carica*. Presented by Mrs. J. F. Kelley, Sept 8. "Color when ripe dark red. Grows beside running water. Figs grow on trunk of tree near base. Fruit is cool and delicious. Diameter as much as 3 7/8 inches, outside pulp 1 inch thick, and a large ball of white custard in the center, surrounded by seeds".

FINLAND, Helsingfors. *Phaseolus vulgaris*; Finnish runner bean. Presented by Mr. V. F. Sagulin, Sept. 10.

RUSSIA, Orenburg. *Glycyrrhiza glabra*. Presented by Mr. W. S. Bogdan, Sept. 8.

SPAIN, Cordoba. Received thru Mr. Manuel Fraile, Sept. 4  
*Punica granatum*.  
*Crocus sativus*.  
*Amygdalus communis*. "These almonds are said to flower

in April and May but, as the region from which they come is a rather cool one, they probable should not be regarded as late flowering varieties." (Fraile)

New or Important Foreign Correspondents Recently Heard From or Gotten Trace Of.

CHINA, Canton Christian College. C. Weidman Groff, Aug. 12. Letter re peaches. Only two varieties recognized in South China. Will send cuttings.

CHINA, Canton. John M. Swan, M. D. Aug. 12. Promises to send peach cuttings.

CHINA, Ning Yuen Fu, American Baptist Mission. R. Wittwood. Sends varieties of beans, July 3.

CHINA, Shanghai. Rev. J. M. W. Farnham. Aug. 17. Sends wild strawberry seed and promises to send wild pinks.

GERMANY, Berlin. O. Warburg, President of Committee to Establish an Agricultural Experiment Station in Palestine. Sept. 9. Writes that Committee has succeeded in establishing station in Palestine and asks co-operation in study of plants of that region and in cultivation of semi-arid regions.

ITALY, Florence. Odoardo Beccari, Sept. 13 Sends information in regard to *Ficus acidula*.

KOREA, Chemulpo. H. F. Meserve, Aug. 22. Promises to send "tarah" seeds.

MADEIRA, Funchal. Alaricus Delmard, Sept. 6. Promises to send seed of *Xanthochymus pictorius*.

PALESTINE, Jerusalem. E. F. Beaumont, Aug. 28. Sends prints of rain chart and relief map of Jerusalem. Is experimenting with alfalfa.

PHILLIPINE ISLANDS, Manila. W. S. Lyon, Aug. 15. Sends seeds of South Sea Ivory Nut Palm, *Coleococcus amicarum*.

TURKEY, Bagdad. Wm. C. Magelssen, Aug. 14. Has ascer-

tained that a very fine alfalfa grows on the Island of Bahrein in the Persian Gulf and is making investigations.

--- Aug. 14. It is stated that exceptionally fine dates are grown at Bedre: says that he intended to secure the Mirhage date suckers this fall and transplant them to Bagdad, they could then have been redug and shipped in the spring. Promises to watch for other varieties of Maktum.

--- Aug. 19. Encloses report of Blockley, Cree & Co. re date fibre....Bale of date fibre despatched to Busrah en route for N. Y. by last steamer. Bale contains 174 lbs net. Of this 134 lbs. are washed, and 40 lbs. unwashed. Thought it advisable to put in some of the unwashed fibre in order that the difference caused by washing might clearly be seen and suggestions as to washing and handling sent. Loss in washing is 50 per cent and stuff is not yet clean. Large quantities could be obtained, best buying season being autumn and winter. First cost is extremely low, but expenses of collection, washing, pressing, freight, etc. would bring cost up to about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per lb. C & F, N. Y. In handling large quantity expenses might be reduced, but freight alone comes to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  d per lb. and this is practically irreducible. If the article is found suitable can supply large quantities.

#### Recent Visitors Who Can Be of Assistance.

PALAWAN ISLAND. Mr. Thomas Hanley (Plant Introducer). Instructor of Agriculture in the Dwahia Penal Settlement, Island of Palawan. Thos. Cook & Son, London, Permanent address.